

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 AGR-20 L-03 IGA-02 ARAE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02

SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-07 SCI-06 OMB-01 DRC-01

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P 211655Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5021

INFO DEA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 2146

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, JM

SUBJ: OPERATION BUCCANEER

REF: A. STATE 118319, B. STATE 129206

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES FUNDING APPROVAL OF \$289,000 FOR COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AND INVESTIGATIVE AIDS FOR SUBJECT OPERATION. AMENDMENT 1 TO FY74 NARCOTICS PROAG WILL BE SIGNED WEEK OF JUNE 24, AND WILL CONTAIN PROVISIO AS SUGGESTED IN REF B.

2. IN REF TO PARA B OF REF A, THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND JUSTICE, ELI MATALON HAS MADE DECISION TO TEST USE OF HERBICIDES FOR MARIHUANA CROP DESTRUCTION. HELICOPTER SPRAY EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN ORDERED FOR ONE BELL 47G3B1 AND IS DUE IN COUNTRY THIS WEEK. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE HELICOPTER COULD BE READY TO BEGIN TESTING OF AIRBORNE SPRAY OPERATIONS BY END OF NEXT WEEK. WE CONSIDER IT ESSENTIAL THAT THE USDA REPS BE ON HAND IN JAMAICA TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OPERATIONAL TESTING PROGRAM PRIOR TO ANY AIRBORNE SPRAY OPERATIONS. WE URGE THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE ARRIVAL OF THE USDA REP WHO WAS DUE HERE IN MID-JUNE PER PARA 2 B OF REF A. DELAY IN THE ARRIVAL OF THIS REP WILL DEPRIVE THE GOJ OF NEEDED AND DESIRED EXPERTISE DURING

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THE CRITICAL TESTING STAGE OF THIS PHASE IN OPERATION BUCCANEER.

EMBASSY BELIEVES IT WOULD BE IMPRUDENT FOR GOJ TO COMMENCE
SPRAY TESTING WITHOUT BENEFIT OF US EXPERTISE.

3. RE PARA 3A OF REF A GOJ WILL ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY AND
COST FOR HERBICIDE CAMPAIGN, IF IT SHOULD PROVE FEASIBLE AFTER
TESTING PERIOD. MATALON AT PRESENT APPEARS WILLING TO BEAR POL-
ITICAL COSTS, IF ANY.

4. RE PARA 3B, CT AND NARCOTICS COORDINATING COMMITTEE HAVE GIVEN
THE MOST CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO THE PROVISION OF THE ADDITIONAL
TROOPLIFT HELICOPTERS AND HAS CONCLUDED THAT, IF THE OVERALL
CAMPAIGN IS TO ACHIEVE THE PROGRAMMED SUCCESS, IT MUST HAVE THE
LIFT CAPABILITY WHICH THESE ADDITIONAL HELICOPTERS WOULD
PROVIDE IN ORDER THAT JDF EQUIPMENT MAY BE DEDICATED ON A FULL-
TIME BASIS TO THE ERADICATION CAMPAIGN. WITHOUT THE MOBILITY
WHICH THIS ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT WOULD PROVIDE, THE NON-ERADICATION
RELATED ASPECTS OF BUCCANEER WILL BE SEVERLY HANDICAPPED. MORE
DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE OVERALL PROGRAM IS FORWARDED BY SEPTTEL.

5. ON QUESTION OF THIRD-PARTY LIABILITY, EMBASSY WOULD
APPRECIATE FURTHER GUIDANCE FROM THE DEPT.
GERARD

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